

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 WELLIN 02070 020548Z

11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 NIC-01 DRC-01

/109 W

----- 104303

R 020510Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8305

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY SUVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WELLINGTON 2070

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB, PINT NZ

SUBJECT: ARREST OF DRIVERS UNION SECRETARY RESULTS IN WAVE OF
INDUSTRIAL UNREST

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: JULY 1 ARREST OF NORTHER DRIVERS UNION
SECRETARY G H ANDERSON ON CONTEMPT OF COURT CHARGE FOLLOWING
FAILURE TO OBEY INJUNCTION HAS RESULTED IN WIDESPREAD
WALKOUTS PARTICULARLY IN AUCKLAND. LIKEIHOOD IS THAT
NUMBER OF WORKERS DOWNING TOOLS WILL GROW WITH GENERAL
STRIKE A DEFINITE POSSIBILITY. FEDERATION OF LABOUR
(FOL) EXECUTIVE MEETING TODAY TO DECIDE WHAT COURSE
OF ACTION IT WILL RECOMMEND TO CONSTITUENT UNIONS.
GNZ PLAYING DOWN SITUATION WITH ONLY PUBLIC ACTION
SO FAR BEING STATEMENT BY PM KIRK ASKING THAT NO
PRECIPITIOUS UNION ACTION BE TAKEN. END SUMMARY.

2. ANDERSEN ARREST IS LATEST MOVE IN LONG SERIES OF
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 WELLIN 02070 020548Z

MANEUVERS RELATING TO MANNING OF ACUKLAND HARBOR HYDRO-

FOIL FERRY. OWNER OF HYDROFOIL PULLED BOAT OUT OF WATER AFTER HAVING BEEN ORDERED CARRY ABLE SEAMAN AS THIRD MEMBER OF CREW. HYDROFOIL SERVICE WAS THEN REPLACED BY REGULAR FERRY OPERATED BY SAME OWNER. DRIVERS UNION, AT REQUEST OF SEAMENS UNION, THEN INITIATED SECONDARY BOYCOTT BY REFUSING DELIVER FUEL TO FERRY. APPEAL OF COURT INJUNCTION ORDERING DRIVERS TO DELIVER FUEL WAS REJECTED BY SUPREME COURT RESULTING IN JULY 1 ORDER FOR ARREST OF ANDERSEN WHO WILL BE SENTENCED JULY 3.

3. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ARREST DRIVERS AND SEAMEN IN AUCKLAND AREA WALKED OFF JOBS. SPORADIC WALKOUTS BY OTHER UNIONISTS RANGING FROM BREWERY WORKERS TO SCHOOLBUS DRIVERS HAVE ALSO OCCURRED. IN AUCKLAND GASOLINE SUPPLIES QUICKLY DISAPPEARING AND CITY BUS DRIVERS SCHEDULED TO STRIKE AT 1900 HOURS TODAY. MOST MAJOR UNIONS AND AREA TRADES COUNCILS WILL BE MEETING IN NEXT 24 HOURS TO DETERMINE COURSES OF ACTION. GENERAL CONCERTED ACTION UNLIKELY PRIOR TO JUDGE'S SENTENCING OF ANDERSEN TOMORROW.

4. ANDERSEN (WHO IN ADDITION TO BEING UNION SECRETARY IS PRESIDENT MOSCOW ORIENTED SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY) HAS TAKEN GREAT PAINS TO CHOOSE THE ISSUE AND PREPARE THE GROUND FOR THIS CONFRONTATION. INJUNCTIONS AGAINST TRADE UNIONS HAVE ONLY COME INTO BEING IN NZ DURING PAST YEAR WITH PASSAGE OF 1973 INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ACT. VARIOUS LABOR LEADERS HAVE PROTESTED AGAINST THEM AND MAY 1974 FOL CONFERENCE PASSED RESOLUTION REQUESTING GNZ TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION OUTLAWING INJUNCTIONS AGAINST UNIONS. SIMILAR RESOLUTION WAS FIRST PASSED AT LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE A WEEK LATER THEN RESCINDED FOLLOWING STRONG INTERVENTION BY ATTORNEY GENERAL MARTIN FINLAY. FINLAY'S (AND THE GNZ'S) POSITION IS THAT LAW MUST BE APPLIED EQUALLY TO ALL. ORGANIZED LABOR'S PHOBIA CONCERNING INJUNCTIONS BOUND TO RESULT IN SUPPORT FOR ANDERSEN FROM BROAD SPECTRUM TRADE UNIONISTS INCLUDING MORE MODERATE OFFICIALS WHO HAVE NO SYMPATHY FOR ANDERSEN'S POLITICAL LEANINGS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 WELLIN 02070 020548Z

5. FOL PRESIDENT SKINNER WILL BE KEY FIGURE IN FOL EXECUTIVE DECISION MAKING. WHILE IT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT HE WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE A GENERAL STRIKE THAT WOULD CAUSE LABOUR PARTY SEVERE POLITICAL PROBLEMS HE IS, FIRST AND FOREMOST, A TRADE UNION LEADER WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO GET TOO FAR AHEAD OF (OR BEHIND) HIS CONSTITUENTS. TOO STRONG A STANCE WOULD LEAD HIM INTO DIRECT CONFLICT WITH PM KIRK WHILE

TOO WEAK A STANCE COULD LEAD TO A MAJOR SPLIT BETWEEN
MODERATES AND RADICALS WITHIN FOL.

6. WHILE GNZ REMAINING QUIET IN PUBLIC, BEHIND THE SCENES
NEGOTIATIONS BEING CARRIED BY MIN LABOUR WATT AND
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY LABOUR ISBEY. IN CON-
VERSATION WITH EMBOFFS ISBEY TERMED SITUATION "DICEY"
NOTING THAT REAL CRUNCH WILL COME AFTER ANDERSEN
SENTENCING TOMORROW. IF ANDERSEN MERELY FINED GOVERN-
MENT'S TASK WILL BE MUCH EASIER THAN IF HE IS GIVEN
JAIL TERM. ISBEY, WHO IS USUALLY TALKATIVE, GAVE LITTLE
INFORMATION CONCERNING WHAT GNZ INTENDS TO DO. IN FACT,
GNZ CAN DO LITTLE AT THE MOMENT EXCEPT EXHORT UNIONS
NOT TO TAKE PRECIPITIOUS ACTION. WATT REPORTED TO BE
DISCUSSING SITUATION WITH FOL PRESIDENT SKINNER.

7. COMMENT: WHILE THE SITUATION IS SERIOUS, IT IS TOO
EARLY TO PREDICT THE OUTCOME. THERE WILL OBVIOUSLY BE STOPPAGES
BY A LARGE NUMBER OF WORKERS
FOR VARYING PERIODS OF TIME AND A GENERAL STRIKE
CANNOT BE RULED OUT. ALTHOUGH EMBARRASED POLITICALLY
THE GNZ DOES NOT APPEAR READY TO BACK DOWN FROM ITS
POSITION. EMBASSY SHOULD HAVE MORE DEFINITIVE
INFORMATION AS TO PROBABLE GNZ AND TRADE UNION COURSES
OF ACTION FOLLOWING ADNERSON SENTENCING AND WILL BE
REPORTING AS SITUATION DEVELOPS.
SELDEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, ARRESTS, LABOR STRIKES, EMPLOYEE GRIEVANCES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: powellba2
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974WELLIN02070
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740174-1094
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740779/aaaacpro.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: powellba2
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 06 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <20 FEB 2003 by shawdg>; APPROVED <08 JUN 2005 by powellba2>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARREST OF DRIVERS UNION SECRETARY RESULTS IN WAVE OF INDUSTRIAL UNREST
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, NZ, NORTHER DRIVERS UNION, (ANDERSON, G H)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005